

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Czech Republic

Post: Prague

Oilseeds Update Czech Republic – Second Best Harvest of Rapeseed

Report Categories:

Oilseeds and Products

Agriculture in the News

Approved By:

Michael Henney

Prepared By:

Jana Mikulasova

Report Highlights:

The 2011 official estimates show production of rapeseed at 1.1 million MT, the second largest crop on record; of sunflower seed, at 73 thousand MT representing a 26 percent increase; and, of soybean at 15 thousand MT representing a slight decline due to smaller planted area and drop in per hectare yield.

General Information:

With area continually expanding in recent years, rapeseed output keeps setting new production records. The 2011 crop recorded both strong yields with good quality. Rising biofuel sector demand is being met through expansion in the country's processing capacity with exportable supplies shrinking rapidly as a result.

Soybeans are produced on a very small share of the total area of agricultural crops in the Czech Republic. The main reason is that the price of locally produced soybeans is not competitive when processed as compared to imported soybean meal for feeding.

In the future, domestic soybean production is expected to increase based on expectations of soil conservation specialists who believe producers would seek to grow soybeans to improve soil fertility. They note this capability in the plant's chemical and biological profile. Their further rationale for adoption of this crop is the increasing practice of devoting more land to production of the most profitable crops (rapeseed, corn, and wheat) and declining practice of proper crop rotation to rejuvenate the soil.

Crop	Area (Thousand Hectares)	Production (Thousand MT)
Rapeseed	373.4	1,076.8
Soybeans	7.6	15.3
Sunflower	28.6	72.5

Source: Czech Statistical Office, www.czso.cz

In MY 2009/10 (October - September), the Czech Republic exported 449 thousand MT of rapeseed. From October 2010 to August 2011, the country exported only 249 thousand MT. The decline in export volume is attributed mostly to the shift in use to the biofuels sector.

Sunflower seed exports as well are on the decline. Seed destined for the EU market totaled 47 thousand MT in MY 2009/10 but only 35 thousand MT from October 2010 to August 2011.

Soybean meal imports remain on target to equate the MY 2009/10 volume of 469 thousand MT with an October 2010 to August 2011 eleven month total of 414 thousand MT.